



Fish DownSea

Rigging Techniques

How To Rig the DownSea Party Hats and Party Skirts



The Party Hats and Party Skirts from Fish DownSea are the first real way to skirt your natural circle hook baits without impairing the hookup of the circle hook. Although the Party Hats and Party Skirts were designed for circle hook fishing for pelagics, they have so many uses from rigging on dredge baits to quickly skirting strip baits for bottom fishing. The opportunities are endless making the DownSea Party Hats and Party Skirts one of the most versatile lures on the market.



Technique 1: Quick Slip On Rig

This is originally how the PartyHat and PartySkirt were designed to be used. It helps to have your bait rigged so the circle hook point enters the natural bait from front to back so it rides straight up whether you use floss or o-rings (as pictured to the left). Then just add your Party Hat or Skirt by slipping it on the hook and on top of your bait. This is a simple, quick, and effective way to add color and flash to your natural bait. **You can also use this rigging technique to add a Party Hat or Skirt to your cut strip baits for bottom fishing.** Although this technique works best with the Party Hat due to the smaller unobtrusive head, it also works well with Party Skirt as well (especially on medium-large to horse size ballyhoo). This technique gives your bait that skip-skip-swim-swim action like a *J-Hook rigged sea witch or duster* does. If you prefer more of a swimming action just use a heavier chin weight.

Technique 2: Wire Direct

This technique works better on the Party Skirt then the Party Hat and secures the skirt atop the baits head. Simply take your copper wire or 20-30# monel and directly attach it to the o-ring that comes attached to the Party Skirt. Next, rig your ballyhoo the way you normally would with an O-Ring Rig. Slip the hook through the o-ring and you're set. If you prefer swivel rigs, you can easily slip your wire straight through the o-ring of the Party Skirt or Hat then rig your ballyhoo the way you normally would. Like Technique 1, this gives your bait the skip-skip-swim-swim action. If you prefer the bait to swim more, just use a heavier chin weight.

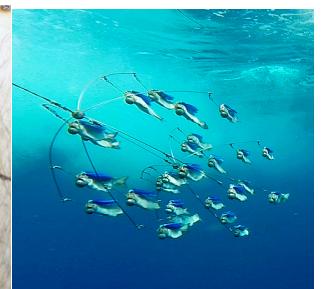


Technique 3: Through The Eyes

Start by dipping the Party Hat or Skirt in the water to help bring all of the hair strands together making it easy to pass through the eye cavity of the bait. Pass the hair through the eye cavity and pull it through until you can work the head of the Hat or Skirt into place in the eye cavity of the bait. Then rig your bait the way you normally would rig it with an o-ring or swivel rig making sure you make a pass or two over the head of the Party Hat or Skirt when you make your passes through the eye cavity. For this technique the smaller head of the Party Hat makes it work well on small to medium ballyhoo and the Party Skirt fits well in large-horse ballyhoo and adds an eye to the ballyhoo where there normally is one. The bait swims very well this way.

Bonus Technique: The Party Dredge

The Party Hats and Party Skirts are a very effective, easy, and inexpensive way to skirt your dredge baits. Whether you use natural baits like mullet or ballyhoo or artificial baits like shad bodies on your dredge, you can quickly and easily skirt your dredge baits with the Downsea Party Hats and Skirts. Simply slip your pin rig into your bait as usual, then slip the o-ring of the Party Hat or Skirt down onto the pin of the pin rig, then finish securing your bait and Party Hat or Skirt with wire, floss, ballyhoo spring, or rubber band.



For How To Videos on Rigging the Party Skirts and Party Hats go to our website at www.FishDownSea.com